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By Steven P. Koda 3/29/2  
Steven P. Koda

PATENT  
10992773-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Wotton

Serial No.: 09/726,964

Filed: November 24, 2000

For: Printer with Vacuum Platen Having  
Bimetallic Valve Sheet Providing  
Selectable Active Area

) Examiner: Yan, Ren Luo

) Art Unit: 2854

) Marked-up Version  
of Amended Claims

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA. 98110

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This paper accompanies an amendment filed herewith in response to the Office action mailed February 7, 2002. The following amendments have been made to the replacement claims 11 and 19.

- 11. (Amended) A vacuum hold-down device comprising:
- a flat platen having an upper surface and a lower surface;
  - the platen defining an array of apertures each extending through the platen from the upper surface to the lower surface;
  - a suction device in communication with the platen to draw air through the apertures; and

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a valve sheet coextensive with the platen, the valve sheet including a plurality of movable shut-off elements each having a movable element registered with a respective aperture and movable between a closed position in which the element contacts a portion of the platen to prevent air flow through the aperture associated with that portion of the platen, and an open position, in which the element is spaced apart from the platen to admit air to the aperture associated with the platen portion.

19. (Amended) A method of operating a printer having a vacuum platen defining an array of apertures communicating with a vacuum device, and having a valve sheet coextensive with the platen and including a corresponding array of thermally [response] responsive valve elements, comprising:

providing a media sheet;

passing the media sheet over the platen;

while passing the media sheet, setting at least some of the valve elements overlaid by the media sheet to obscure the corresponding aperture, and setting at least some of the valve elements away from the media sheet to maintain open the corresponding aperture. --

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 3/29/02

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